

Congregation

"Beth Yosef"

*** 2108 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 ***

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Bo

6th Shevat 5786

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Siga

Issue #1147

Haftarat Hadavar Asher

January 24th 2026

**Candle Lighting 4:44pm * Shekiah 5:02pm * Shir Hashirim 4:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:30pm * Shabbat Ends 5:46pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:16pm
Time for Talit 6:15am * Seasonal Hour 58 * Alot Hashahar 6:03am * Netz Hachama 7:13am
Weekday Minha 4:50pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:28pm * Tzet Hacochavim 5:41pm * Chatzot 12:07
Latest Time for Morning Kriat Shema 8:57am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:55am**

Shovevim Fasting:

Thursday January 22nd fast starts 6:04am and ends 5:30pm

Monday January 26th fast starts 5:59am and ends 5:31pm

Those who wish to contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Kriat Hatorah

As Bnei Yisrael were leaving Egypt, *the dogs held their tongue and did not bark*. The Pasuk teaches us this in order to differentiate between the Jews and the Egyptians. But, didn't the Torah already show enough differentiation through each and every one of the ten plagues? If the great wonders and open miracles were not enough, will the dogs' willingness to hold their tongues now be the clear indication that Bnei Yisrael are set apart from the Egyptians, and beloved before Hashem? Also, why does the Pasuk use future tense, 'so that Bnei Yisrael *will* know', and not present tense? Shouldn't it be teaching that Hashem wishes for Bnei Yisrael to know at *that* time, present tense, and not just that they *will* know, future tense? Let us explain: the purpose of the ten plagues was to exact vengeance against the Egyptians for their cruelty, for time and again torturing the Jewish nation who were under their reign of terror. However, throughout the ten plagues, there was no indication that Bnei Yisrael were specifically set apart and respected uniquely as when they were leaving Egypt and the dogs unnaturally held their tongues. This

demonstrated that they were beloved before Hashem, even though in Egypt they had fallen prey to the idolatry that Egypt had worshipped, and had been steep and deep in the many levels of impurity. If Bnei Yisrael rivaled in the wickedness of the Egyptian worship, how then could it have been that Hashem held them so beloved? This is something that one could have wondered and questioned, had it not been for the fact that Hashem gave them a clear indication of His love and affection, when the dogs unnaturally held their tongues as they were redeemed. They were the sons of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, and they were beloved simply because of the fact that they were the chosen nation. That night, while great screams rang out from all the Egyptian households, the dogs held their tongues, they did not bark as would have been usual and expected. Barking and growling would in the least have decreased the great happiness the nation was enjoying upon finally leaving Egypt after hundreds of years. Hashem's miracle to change the nature of the dog on that night, that not even one dog acted naturally, therefore provided a clear sign that Hashem

loves Bnei Yisrael, not only during that time, but throughout all generations. This is why the Pasuk speaks in future tense, as the miracle indicated an important lesson not just for those specifically present, but rather for all future Jewish souls yet to be born as well. Hashem's love for us continues on forevermore. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Ktav Sofer*)

Insights on the Parasha

At the beginning of the second plague, the Pasuk details and lists that the frogs went everywhere, including into the fiery ovens. When the second plague concluded, the Pasuk says that all the frogs died, listing locations but does not list those that went into the ovens. The frogs that had been commanded to go into the ovens had sacrificed themselves for Kiddush Hashem to sanctify Hashem's name, and were therefore rewarded that at the conclusion of the plague, they were returned to life, not listed amongst all the other frogs that died. (*Chizkuni*)

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. When Rebbe composed the six Sedarim of Mishnah, he used four levels: Seder, Masechet, Perek, Mishnah & Halacha. Each Seder includes a number of Masechtot. Each Masechet includes a number of Perakim. Each Perek includes a number of Mishnayot or Halachot. It took 150 years to write down all the Mishnayot, in the year 220. It was written with divine inspiration and heavenly assistance. It was distributed throughout Israel, far and near. This was the Oral Torah given to Moshe Rabbenu from Hashem at Har Sinai. After it was completed, nothing can ever be added to the Mishnayot moving forward. *Run to learn the Mishnah!* Rebi Natan says, one who does not treat the Mishnah as primary is disgracing the word of Hashem. Rabbenu Hakadosh signed off on all the Mishnayot. When people became weaker in Torah, burdened with suffering and hardships, and

were unable to easily understand the Mishnah, Rebi Chiya and Rabbah wrote the Tosefta. Rebi Oshaya and Rabbah wrote the Beraita. Bar Kapara and Rav wrote the Sifra and Sifri. Any Beraita that was not learned in the Bet Medrash of Rebi Chiya or Rebi Oshaya is not authentic, and should not be used to ask on Mishnayot of Rabbenu Hakadosh.

Health and Recovery

The following is good advice in order to maintain good health: 1- Go to the dentist every six months to get a cleaning and a checkup. 2- Practice to physically keep your mouth closed, from a young age, even while sleeping. 3- Sleep at least six hours each night. 4- Do not go suddenly from light to dark or from dark to light. 5- Do not hold the phone to your ear by using just your shoulder and not your hand. 6- Do not stand for prolonged periods of time. 7- Stay away from the microwave. 8- Stay away from smoke. 9- Keep away from garbage. 10- Fill out a will. 11- Keep track of your working minutes. 12- From the ages of 30-35 avoid carrying heavy loads. 13- From the age of 40 get your vision checked and your eyes examined periodically, as well as your blood and sugar levels. 14- From the age of 50 get an ultrasound of your neck and check your bone density. Now let us discuss the body, which constantly repairs itself. The skin and nails we have today are not the same that we had just a short while ago, definitely not the same as a year ago. The food we eat provides energy, vitamins and nutrients, which it carries around the body through the blood, and are used to rebuild and repair much of the body constantly.

Mussar: Ta'anit Dibur (Tikkun Shovevim)

Sunday January 25th we will be conducting a day of Ta'anit Dibur in our Bet Knesset Beth Yosef starting at 8:45am – the goal is to complete Sefer Tehillim three times consecutively, without speaking any other words all day. One who fulfills this goal will

be rewarded greatly from heaven, and he will gain atonement for the following sins: 1 – For interrupting Torah learning with unimportant words. 2 – Speaking during Shabbat as if it were a weekday. 3 – Speaking in Shul, especially during Kaddish, Chazara, and Sefer Torah. 4 – Lashon Hara. 5 – Lies, cynical speech, flattery, and profanity. 6 – Speaking openly about private family purity matters. Also, one gains the following: 7 – Tehillim reading creates a pleasant spirit before the Heavenly Throne. 8 – It awakens a time of mercy and acceptance for our nation. 9 – Hashem cleanses us from the above-mentioned sins to the point that we are considered like new creations, clean of sin, like a bride and groom who are clean of sin when they get married. 10 – Hashem will send Refuah for the sick. 11 – Hashem will distance evil decrees from us. 12 – Hashem protects us from the Evil Eye. 13 – The gates of Parnassah will open before us. 14 – We will not leave this world before our time. 15 – Enemies and plunderers will be distanced from us. 16 – A woman will not heaven forbid experience a miscarriage, and the child and mother will survive the birth healthy and strong. 17 – The merit of King David a”h will protect us and he will pray for us. Altogether, we will enjoy these seventeen rewards for performing the Ta'anit Dibur – 17 is the numerical value of Tov – good. Therefore, we must all join in this special Mitzvah, may Hashem merit us and send Mashiah, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

Maran worked hard to ensure the holiness of our people was preserved despite terrible and threatening obstacles. Maintaining the proper levels of Kashrut, especially in Shechitah, was a challenge that even endangered his life. He tried to correct the mistakes of Shechitah and Kashrut that were taking place in Egypt, one of his attempts was performed by teaching ten students all the laws of Shechitah. Another

area of Kashrut that challenged him was teaching the people the laws of Kosher for Pesah. He discovered that the Matzot being sold were completely Chametz and forbidden to eat on Pesah. He spread the word that these Matzot were not Kosher and he worked hard to import Kosher Matzot from Israel and other distributors. The people in Egypt were not happy with him, especially people who made and sold the Matzot and the butchers who slaughtered the animals and sold their meat. They were losing credibility and business.

Story

During the times of the Chafetz Chaim, there was a very wealthy man whose family was riddled with sicknesses that the doctors knew not how to cure or treat. His lifestyle was very distant from Torah and Mitzvot, and he worked through Shabbat and Yom Tov as if it were a regular weekday. He was once dealing with a businessman who was very religious, and he told him all about his sicknesses and problems. What was all the riches worth when his family was too sick to properly enjoy the luxuries? The heaven fearing businessman advised the wealthy man to go visit the Chafetz Chaim and ask him for a blessing. The wealthy man waved his hand in dismissal. Was this rabbi a saintly angel of heaven who could just bless away all his terrible sufferings? Can he change the natural status of things with his spirituality? The businessman did not give up and continued trying to convince the wealthy man to give it a shot, what did he have to lose?

Laws

1 – Before producing, tying, and knotting the strings of the Tzitzit, you must say LeShem Mitzvat Tzitzit. You can do this before starting the first strings on the first corner and it is good enough for all strings on all four corners. If you did not say this but rather only thought it, it is still kosher even to recite a blessing on.

2 – If you did not say or even think LeShem Mitzvat Tzitzit, then you must undo the

progress and redo the strings declaring the proper intentions.

3 – We recite Ha'etz on coconut, even if it is grinded into pieces bigger than sesame. However, if it is ground smaller, some say you recite Shehakol, others say even if it is ground very finely it is still Ha'etz.

4 – On the juice of a coconut, if you drink it by itself without the fruit, then you recite Shehakol, but if you already recited Ha'etz on the fruit then you do not also recite Shehakol to drink the juice.

Sponsors

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Mr. Nissim Alkada, his wife Rima, and their children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yehuda Ben Rima a”h**, Leilui Nishmat his father **Nouri Ben Rosa a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Latifah a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Brenda Heffez and her blessed children: Larry, Gabriel, and Jack.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Avraham Ben Dora a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Norma Assa and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father the Shochet Hacham **Yosef Ben Najla a”h**, Amen. *Note: Wednesday January 14th an envelope came to my mailbox opened and empty, I don't know if it contained a donation, anyone with more information, please contact **Rabbi Aharon Farhi (646) 552-3412** to clarify the details, Todah Rabbah. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Touni Levy Shrem, her husband Shahoud Shaul, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shelomo Ben Mazal a”h**, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Bat Jamila a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Altoun Bat Salha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Stella Zaafrahi HaCohen, her husband R' Shelomo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Hacham Edmond Hiya Ben Esther Tira a”h**, Amen.

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Weekly cost publication/distribution \$1,600
307,100 total website visits
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